Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of addressing a node in a network, comprising:

reading an identifier;

translating the identifier into a group identification representative of a plurality of identifiers;

indexing an address table with the group identification; and

mapping the group identification to a first node of the network.

2.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein translating the identifier into a group identification further comprises translating the identifier into one of a plurality of group identifications.

3.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein indexing an address table with the group identification further comprises indexing a record of the table having a field element corresponding to the group identification.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein mapping the group identification to a first node further comprises mapping the group identification to a first node of a plurality of nodes of the network.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein reading an identifier further comprises reading a text-based identifier.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein translating the identifier further comprises translating the identifier by a hashing function.

7.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein translating the identifier into a group identification further comprises translating the identifier into a numerical-based group identification.

8.   (Original) A message distributor for processing an identifier and routing the identifier to a processing node, comprising:

a translation module for receiving the identifier and converting the identifier into one of a plurality of group identifications; and

a first table including a plurality of records each indexable by one of the plurality of group identifications, an indexed record including an element having a first address of the processing node.

9.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, wherein the translation module is a hashing function.

10.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, wherein the identifier is a text-based identifier and the group identification is a numerical-based identification.

11.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, wherein the translation module is operable to translate a plurality of identifiers into a common group identification.

12.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, further comprising:

a processing element; and

a memory module maintaining the translation module and the first table, the translation module maintained by the memory module as an instruction set executable by the processing element.

13.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, wherein the identifier is included in a message received by the message distributor, the message routed to the processing node by the message distributor upon indexing of the record.

14.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, wherein the message distributor is operable to receive a second identifier and the translation module is operable to translate the second identifier into a second group identification of the plurality of group identifications, a second record indexed by the second group identification.

15.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 14, wherein the second record includes a second element having a second address.

16.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 15, wherein the second address is equivalent to the first address.

17.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 15, wherein the second address is different than the first address.

18.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 8, further comprising an interface with a plurality of processing nodes.

19.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 18, wherein the interface is a network interface.

20.   (Original) The message distributor according to claim 18, wherein the interface is an address bus of the message distributor.